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BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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4TH YEAR—NO. 187

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

HAVERLY'S THEATRE—THE GALLEY SLAVE. BROADWAY OPERA HOUSE—STRATAGEMS. ACADEMY OF MUSIC—AIDA. ABERLON'S THEATRE—TINA, THE MILL VENDOR. NIBLO'S GARDEN—HEARTS OF STEEL. STANDARD THEATRE—PRINCES TOTO. WALLACK'S—ESTELLE. GERMANIA THEATRE—DIE NICHTS DES MILLIONAERS. FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—H. M. S. PINAFOR. UNION SQUARE THEATRE—FRANCIS FLEMING. ABBEY'S PARK—FRITZ IN IRELAND. DALY'S THEATRE—ABRAHAM LINCOLN. GRAND OPERA HOUSE—BROTHER SAM. THIALLA THEATRE—DER VERKAUFTE SCHLAF. NEW YORK AQUARIUM—UNIQUE TON'S CABIN. TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE—VARIETY. Matinee. NEW YORK CIRCUS—HURRY DUNPHY. Matinee. THEATRE COMIQUE—MELANIE GUARDS CHRISTMAS. KOSTER & BIAL'S CONCERT HALL. SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—THOMPSON STREET PLAZA. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—WALKING MATCH. BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE—OTHELLO. BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC—PINAFOR.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1879.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity today will be slightly cold and fair. To-morrow it promises to be cold and partly cloudy, possibly with rain or snow toward night.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks were active and closed at an average advance of two points on the opening quotations. Money on call loaned at 5 to 6 per cent until the closing hour, when 7 per cent sharp became the ruling rate. Government securities were strong. States were neglected and railway bonds were very dull but firm. Foreign exchange was quiet and steady.

MINISTER HAYDEN'S prospects improve, according to reports of the latest testimony.

THE FAT CHURCHYARD that a green Christmas makes it not to be viewed this season.

THE CHANGE IN THE WEATHER puts one in mind of the sort of Christmas that poor people will have unless a good many men and women play Santa Claus.

PRESIDENT WOOD, of the Board of Education, who is just retiring from service, received some handsome compliments at the Normal College yesterday, and, better yet, deserved them all.

A DESPATCH from Panama announces that the Chileans have gained another victory over the Allies, and that the former are now in possession of Tarapaca. From the same source we are informed that revolutions have broken out in Peru and in Bolivia.

AFTER ALL THE INDIGNATION expressed in dramatic and other circles over the murder of the actor Porter by the ruffianly Texan Currie, the assassin is likely to be discharged because the principal witnesses cannot attend the trial. Indignation is a very short-lived virtue.

ONE OF THE BAPTIST BROTHERS at the conference yesterday doubted the power of the press to aid revivals. Perhaps he was entirely right. The truth is that the press has so many backsliders of all kinds to watch that it has but little opportunity to go into the revival business.

THE "L" ROAD COMPANIES seem to expect additional concessions at the Battery. The public, as a rule, have supposed that piece of ground to be a park, the special features and associations of which should protect it from even a desire for encroachment; but the public doesn't know anything about business.

MORE TROOPS are to go to Colorado to watch the Utes, the bravest guilty of the agency massacre have not yet been received by Commissioner Hatch, and O'Leary does not seem at all sanguine about getting them. The cessation of the late war seems likely to produce nothing more satisfactory than additional fighting.

MR. SAY'S YACHT HENRIETTE, formerly the Shanghai, appears not only to have broken her shaft, but utilized that important piece of iron as an anchor, with the apparent intention of putting an end to herself. Her owner, however, treats the affair with sailor-like coolness and proposes to continue his trip around the world.

THE WEATHER.—The depression that moved from the West on Sunday developed a storm centre of considerable energy while passing over the lake districts. Its influence was felt over all the territory east of the Upper Mississippi River and between the Ohio Valley and the British possessions. The gradients for southerly and northerly winds became very steep on the eastern and western margins of the storm centre, respectively, when it was over the lower lakes. The area of high barometer that was over the New England States receded toward the Gulf of St. Lawrence during the early portion of the day, while that in the northwest moved rapidly eastward to the central valleys. The pressure has again commenced to decrease over the Western and Southwestern States, and there are indications that a disturbance will advance from Texas and Northeastern Mexico this afternoon. Snow fell during the morning in the Middle Atlantic, New England States and the lake regions, and rain in the central valleys. As the day advanced the rising temperature turned the snow into rain in the Middle Atlantic States. The temperature fell in the Northwest and rose elsewhere. The winds were from brisk to high in the lake regions and the northern portion of the Middle Atlantic and New England States, and brisk to fresh in the other districts. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be slightly colder and fair. To-morrow it promises to be cold and partly cloudy, possibly with rain or snow toward night.

Mr. Parnell and the Irish Agitation in America.

Mr. Parnell is "at sea," says the news of the day; and this, though intended as the statement of a simple physical fact, is a phrase susceptible of political interpretations. It is our opinion, indeed, and we have already given some intimation on this point, that Mr. Parnell is not merely at sea on the Scythian between Queenstown and New York, but is "at sea" in several other respects also; "at sea" as to his conceptions of the true remedy for Irish troubles; at sea as to the true point and purpose of the political agitation of grievances; utterly at sea in his theory that an oratorical noise made here and there in Irish towns can force a British legislature to loosen the grip of landlords on Irish property, and yet more hopelessly at sea, we trust, in his fancy that a new appeal to the purses of the Irish servant girls and the thrifty Irish laborers and mechanics in this country can tap again a valuable stream of money support for a new Irish agitation. How great and widespread is the faith entertained in the credulity and lavish spirit of the Irish in this country! At one time a bishop falls, and five or six million dollars are lost to those who had put it in his hands. Send around the hat and make it up for him is the cry; and the hat is sent around that the Irish poor who had at first lost the money may subscribe it again to repay themselves—less the costs of collection. At another time a handful of Irish scoundrels pretend not to be satisfied that the Fenian attempt to disestablish Great Britain has really failed. In fact, they are, perhaps, as sure of that as the world generally; but they are not satisfied to step down from the position of personal importance and the receipt of an easy income, all of which they enjoyed in their position of professional agitators and "leaders of the people." So the cry is spread to the Irish in America, give us your pennies for a "skirmishing fund," and the pennies come in some degree; and now once more an enthusiastic Irishman believes that he sees his way through the millstone of Irish troubles, and he also raises this same old perennial parrot cry of cheap patriotism, give us your coppers, good people, that we may make England howl and Ireland free.

Apparently there are people in Ireland as well as here who do not regard this trip of the agitator to our side of the sea with particular favor. Mr. Doran, of Queenstown, who appears to have spoken publicly upon the occasion of Mr. Parnell's departure, "expressed himself as very much opposed to anything in the nature of begging from America." These were plain words, and they provoked, it is said, "a slight scene." Some persons present, doubtless as ardent, as enthusiastic and as visionary as Mr. Parnell, did not want any cold water thrown on this grand project of striking at British resistance by way of the United States, and, with the clear capacity to reason, and the heroic spirit which distinguish men at such moments, they probably hooted this plain Mr. Doran for his untimely indulgence in the words of common sense. For if Mr. Parnell's trip to America is not at bottom a mission of beggary what is it? He "is sure that Americans will now accord to Ireland the sympathy they have ever shown." Well, he need not go very far to be sure of that. Neither need he cross the sea to stir up this kindly emotion or carry cargoes of American sympathy home with him. America sympathizes with all distressed peoples and with all disconsolate peoples; and her mood is so generous in this particular that she does not even enter into the consideration whether there is any valid ground for discontent, or whether the distress is such as ought not to afflict an energetic self-helping people. Sympathy is psychological in its relations and does not reason; it is poured out most freely in the hour when there is least rational ground for it, and it is most valued when it soothes the chagrin of those who have failed through their own fault. Thus, though Ireland should present herself to us in the person of Mr. Parnell, and as the very Micawber of nations, she may be sure that the sympathy of America will never leave her. But how will this sympathy help her in troubles that are due to an oppressive condition of laws framed in London and that can be changed only there? We have no influence with that administration. Can American sympathy for Ireland change the British views of the supremacy of the rights of property over all other conceivable and imaginable rights? The sound of the trumpet of Gabriel will find every Englishman on the earth or under it reaching out to grasp more firmly the ounce of silver or the pound of cheese that is his property, lest these should melt in the general conflagration—and we certainly cannot change that point of his nature. Can our sympathy help Ireland to endure her sorrows with more patience? She has no need of help like that. She is over-endowed with the gift of that sort of patience.

How, then, can American sympathy be of value in this crisis, even in the views of the agitators, unless it is that it may take the substantial form of money contributions to assist them to cultivate the discontents upon which they play for political effect? Will Mr. Parnell be able to open anew that ancient vein of Celtic contributions for "the good cause"? Perhaps; for there are few things more difficult than to induce men, or women either, to spend their money wisely. But there is a likelihood that the contributions will not flow lavishly, because the experience of many vain projects has taught the Irish people in this country to repose a less ready confidence in men who come to them in the name of that same "good cause" for which they would be ready to sacrifice the last cent if sure that the sacrifice would be of any use. But they have found that it is easier to give their money than to find out where it goes; that Ireland remains under the hand of England despite all contributions, and, in short, that the only perceptible effect of their contributions is that they are themselves the poorer, and a little bit the wiser, for the gift. They therefore are disposed to exercise a little discrimination. They

will scarcely consent to pay the piper for the personal glorification of agitators who cannot show how a cent can be spent to better the condition of the Irish people, unless it is to be spent in buying food for them. But that sort of expenditure is apparently beneath the attention of the gentlemen who merely want to play at the game of making Ireland a thorn in the side of England, and to lift themselves thereby into that sort of personal notoriety and consideration which seems to be far dearer to the heart of the average Irish patriot the world over than the welfare of his countrymen or the liberty of his country. But we believe the Irish in this country, and the Americans too, will give liberally to help the Irish people who are in want. Do the agitators want that done? We doubt it. We believe they would rather trade upon the hunger of the people as an element in the agitation than to see that hunger fed.

If a people in a bad year have made only half the money they usually make, and can, consequently, only pay their rent or buy food, but not do both, it is pitiful that hard laws and heartless landowners should extort what is due for rent, though the people starve, and it is an occasion, if ever there was one, when the charity of the world at large, and especially of friendly and sympathetic nations, should come to the help of the wretched. But how this can practically be done otherwise than by buying food for these hungry ones is not rationally perceptible. Yet this is not what the agitators want. They will deprecate every cent that is spent otherwise than in agitation. To give the people money with which to buy bread would take the ground from under the feet of those who see no other fact in the misery of a starving people than the opportunity to make political use of their despair. To give the Irish food would end the dilemma between starvation and rent, which is the ground of the Parnell clamor. But we urge the Irish or all others prepared to give to reserve their funds for that better purpose. That this advice is likely to get us into hot water with so-called Irish patriots is a point of little moment to us. The HERALD has always been in hot water. It was baptized in hot water. It is the duty of a journal which means to tell the simple truth plainly to the people to take all the chances of that sort of regimen, and we take them.

Another Fire Catastrophe.

A fire which occurred last night in a huge factory on Twenty-ninth street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, caused a pecuniary loss of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, serious injury to at least six persons and possibly the death of several more. This is a frightful record for Christmas week, and we trust that the tragical features will be eliminated by further investigation. The fact that the flames spread with such rapidity as to envelop the entire building before the firemen reached the scene shows that the contents must have been of an inflammable nature, and the statement that one of the floors fell while a group of housemen were forcing their way into a hall proves that the building itself was not strong enough. It is also stated that all of the doors and windows were fastened, although forty persons were at work, which is an indication of culpable negligence on the part of somebody. The fire burned so fiercely and rapidly that it presented a magnificent spectacle; but the knowledge that so many human lives were in peril sent a thrill of horror through the crowds of spectators. As usual, our firemen and police displayed great heroism in rescuing such of the inmates as they could reach; but when flames find abundant food to feed upon, as was the case last night, human effort, however heroic, is powerless. This fire teaches a lesson, like many that have preceded it; but it will no doubt be soon forgotten. But is it not about time that steps were taken to prevent such catastrophes? Steam fire engines and brave firemen, such as New York possesses, are all very well in their way, but the proverbial ounce of prevention is vastly cheaper in the long run than the pound of cure. A strict inquiry should be made into the matter, and if there is any blame the persons at fault ought to be severely punished. There is no other way to deal with the case, and a public outcry might insure such a course.

Boer and Briton.

The London Times believes that the capture of Sapoceni the finishing strokes have been given to native disturbances in South Africa. The London Times, is, however, apparently crowing before England is well out of South African woods, unless we are to understand that the Boer troubles in the Transvaal do not come within the category of "native disturbances." The disaffection that prevails in the Transvaal has by no means subsided; indeed, during the month of October the Cape papers have contained reports from all parts of the late Republic, showing that public meetings were being held for the purpose of demanding from England the restoration of republican independence and institutions. An English correspondent, writing from Lydenburg two months ago, gave us some idea of the relations existing between the English and the Dutch Boers. "It is," he said, "scarcely possible to hear one of the rougher sort of English residents speak of a Dutchman without the use of a prefix which indicates the lost spiritual status of the latter, and the compliment is returned by the Boers, who never mention the abstract Englander without putting the Dutch equivalent for lost without salvation before the substantive." No Boer of any standing among his fellows has yet given welcome to Sir Garnet Wolseley, and those whose signatures were attached to the address to the new Governor of the Transvaal were mostly of names not indicating pure Dutch blood. The Transvaal Boers have been annexed against their will, and though it is too late for them now to hope for success in the field they will, doubtless, persist in protesting and annoying the British until something like independence is again restored to

them. They would like to form one of the States in the proposed South African confederation, but of this scheme Sir Garnet Wolseley refuses to hear a word. The Boers have been harshly used, but they procrastinate when England's defeats brought them golden opportunities, and now they will have to submit with the best grace they can to English rule until another Cetywayo brings them other opportunities.

The Political Trouble in Maine.

The Governor and Council of Maine, who act as a returning board, or body of State canvassers, have used the letter of the law to defeat the manifest intention of the voters. They have not merely thrown out votes when the full name was not correctly printed on the ballots, but whole towns have been disfranchised for the most trivial clerical errors of local officers. In cases where the ballots for a republican candidate were perfectly correct and regular, and a careless town clerk, after giving the full name in the body of his return, substituted the initials of the Christian name in the appended summary—a trivial informality which the face of the return both disclosed and furnished the means of correcting—all the votes for that candidate were rejected, although correct in form when deposited and although legally counted and certified by the selectmen of the town. By wholesale sharp practice of a similar description a republican majority of seven in the Senate and twenty-nine in the House has been transformed, under color of strict adherence to the law, into a fusion majority of nine in the Senate and seventeen in the House. As the choice of Governor is thrown into the Legislature the political complexion of the entire State government is changed and the election of a democratic Senator of the United States rendered possible. It is no wonder that the republican party of Maine is in a state of boiling indignation.

What is the remedy? It is not clear that there is any effective remedy, although several have been suggested. The most desperate that has been named is that of redressing the wrong by force. This would only make a bad matter worse. The method by which it has been proposed to bring on the collision is for the republican majority who were really elected to assemble as a Legislature, proceed to organize and resist by force if an attempt is made to disperse them; all this to be done with a view to invoke the interposition of the President under the federal law for suppressing domestic violence in a State. But there are great difficulties in the way. In the first place, no member can legally hold a seat and take part in the organization unless he holds a certificate of election from the Governor. A Legislature so irregular and illegal could not make a valid application to the President, and it is not probable that he would comply with one from such a source. It would be unwise for the republicans to resort to such a device at the risk of a civil war. In spite of some rash advisers the republicans will not have recourse to so desperate a remedy.

The action of the Governor and Council is not by law a final determination of the title of members to seats. Each house for itself is the constitutional judge of the election and qualifications of its own members. It is in the power of the Legislature to redress all the injustice that has been committed; but the Legislature cannot act on this subject until it is organized, and as only those who have received the Governor's certificates can participate in the organization the claims of the rejected republicans will be passed upon by the factitious fusion majority. The chance of redress from this source seems, therefore, unpromising, but it is the only source from which legal redress can come. If there can be found five fusionists in the Senate and nine in the House fair-minded enough to vote with the republicans on matters which ought to be decided in a judicial spirit, justice may be done and the intentions of the voters respected; and for aught we can see this is the only hope. We suppose the indignation meetings in Maine are held with a view to create a public sentiment which will make it easy for a small number of fusionists in each House to rise above party in a matter which appeals so strongly to the sense of personal and political honor. This effort will be strengthened by the course of a number of democratic journals outside the State that denounce the action of Governor Garcelon.

Milk for New York Children.

Among the allowances which the Board of Health asks of the Board of Apportionment over last year's appropriation there is an item for three additional inspectors of milk, at salaries each of twelve hundred dollars a year. This ought to be granted. There are a hundred and thirty thousand children in the city less than five years old whose diet consists of milk in larger proportion than their elders. For all these and the million other inhabitants only one milk inspector now is provided. The Board of Health estimates that the citizens are defrauded at a rate of ten thousand dollars a day by the sale of skimmed and watered milk. But that is not the worst. It omits to estimate the quantity of rotten milk which is served daily to the hundred and thirty thousand children. Year by year sanitarians in other countries are becoming more firmly convinced that next to defective drainage unwholesome milk is the most fertile agency of syphilitic diseases. If the Board of Health will penetrate to the sources of this corruption and cleanse them, by all means give it the necessary inspectors for the purpose and hold it rigidly responsible for the execution of the duty.

The Twelve in the Tombs.

While the outside world is preparing for Christmas festivities twelve wretched men are lying in the Tombs, some of whom are under sentence of death, others are serving on terms of life imprisonment for murder, and still others are awaiting trial for that crime. The inquiry concerning a decent substitute for hanging obviously would not be complete without hearing their opinions, and they have been consulted accordingly, with results which we print this morning.

Two of the twelve (Whalen and Madill) were unwilling to converse upon the subject and their privacy was scrupulously respected. One (Balbo) is so overcome with dread of death that all the various means of it are indifferent to him. There is a diversity of views among the other nine, but with two exceptions they disapprove of hanging as the method of capital punishment. Two (Accella and McCormack) would prefer to be drowned; one (Smith) to be shot, and one (Bello) to be stabbed to death. Three (Burke, Condon and Poole) have a preference for suffocation by the fumes of charcoal or of ordinary illuminating gas, though to one of them (Burke) drowning would be equally acceptable. Le Font, Poole's accomplice, emphatically commends hanging, and would be better satisfied if the ancient penalty of quartering were restored in addition. Chastine Cox favors hanging all murderers who are more than fifty years old and shooting or bleeding to death those younger. For himself he would like to be shot. Electricity is not acceptable as a mode of death to any of the number. Neither is the guillotine nor the garrote.

Edison's Triumph.

As might have been expected, the magnificent success of Thomas Alva Edison in developing his electric light, as made known in Sunday's HERALD, has had the instantaneous effect of calling forth the earping criticisms of rival inventors. A paragraph in one of the city dailies yesterday referred to Edison's invention as a mere modification of the Sawyer-Man patent, and another of our contemporaries, the Sun, contains an ill-natured fling by Mr. W. E. Sawyer, in which he challenges the well-earned reputation of our great inventor in respect to his quadruplex telegraph and his carbon telephone. It is rather late in the day to discuss these points, and we are satisfied to leave them to the mature judgment of the present generation of scientists. But Mr. Sawyer proceeds to formulate a series of eight challenges to Mr. Edison, offering one hundred dollars premium for a successful answer to any one of them. They cover pretty nearly all the points presented as the distinctive features of Mr. Edison's invention, and if he were so disposed he might doubtless win eight hundred dollars by merely demonstrating them to a committee of Mr. Sawyer's friends.

We do not, however, think it necessary in this year of grace 1879 for any one seriously to discuss a question of comparative originality as between Thomas Alva Edison and W. E. Sawyer. We say this without disparaging the problematical laurels of the latter in his own sphere as an inventor, but we would counsel him not to try conclusions with the "Wizard of Menlo Park." All great inventors have had their rivals and their detractors. What will the men of the twentieth century say if perchance they learn from some dog-eared volume that the greatest invention of the greatest inventor of all time was challenged by one W. E. Sawyer? Let Mr. Sawyer demonstrate his own inventions as satisfactorily as Mr. Edison and the world will then listen to him.

As compared with such earping criticism the generous commendations of Mr. Richard A. Proctor, printed in yesterday's HERALD, are refreshing to the generous mind, and the letter which we to-day print from Mr. E. J. Mallett, Jr., is a further testimony from the pen of a thoroughly competent scientist, who has himself experimented in a most interesting manner with the same wonderful element, carbon, which has yielded to Mr. Edison his last and greatest triumph. If any one is authorized to contest with Edison the palm of originality as a carbonographer it would seem to be our correspondent, Mr. Mallett; but his letter, instead of filing a bill of complaint, contains a generous appreciation of the merits of his fellow physicist. His experiments with platinum chloride form a distinct addition to the sum of knowledge in this obscure branch of metallurgy and entitle him to rank as a discoverer. The differing attitude of Messrs. Mallett and Sawyer in this respect is deserving of notice, and the public will find no difficulty in awarding the premium for genuine scientific insight and fellowship.

Republican Troubles.

A despatch from our special Washington correspondent, printed elsewhere, gives some interesting statements concerning the middle into which the republicans are falling about the Grant movement. Our correspondent, it will be seen, states positively that neither Mr. Sherman nor Mr. Blaine will adhere to the Grant movement; but both will remain in the field as candidates to contest for the nomination, and that there is among republicans in Washington a growing belief that General Grant would be a weak candidate and that it would be hazardous to nominate him for a third term. Various other matters of fact and opinion are stated in this despatch, all bearing upon the question of General Grant's renomination; and it would seem from the contradictory accounts put forward from different quarters that the republican politicians are having as difficult a time with General Grant as the democrats with Mr. Tilden.

Speeches at Christmas Festivals.

It is customary to precede the eating of charitable Christmas dinners and the awarding of charitable Christmas gifts with speeches. A great many pious men imagine that they have special qualifications for such oratory. Most of them are mistaken. Generally they are too prolix and too serious. An address at any Christmas festival should be brief and cheerful, and especially so if the occasion is one of charity. It should not delay the hearers till the turkey gets cold. It should not provoke them to impatience for the distribution of the other good things. Christmas is a glad-some anniversary, and the joy should not be talked out of it. The art of making an appropriate Christmas speech is a very difficult one, particularly a speech to children. If they are poor children the orator sometimes reminds them of their poverty in order to enhance their gratitude for the bounty of which they are about to partake. This is a grievous blunder. It disenchants

the whole festival. Besides being always in bad taste often it is positively cruel. The HERALD urgently advises Christmas speakers to cut their talk short and make it merry.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Blaine is fond of blue broadcloth. Tennyson continues to wear his hair long. Grant and Longfellow are about the same height. The Rev. Edward Eggleston has sailed for Europe. Senator William B. Allison, of Iowa, is at the Brevoort House. Senator James B. Beck, of Kentucky, is at the Sturtevant House. The Duke of Edinburgh plays on a violin while his wife plays on the piano. James Russell Lowell, our Minister to Spain, parts his whiskers in the middle. It is claimed that the highest rent ever paid for a store on Broadway was \$60,000 a year. Mr. Frank Hutton, editor and proprietor of the Burlington (Iowa) Hawkeye, has been appointed postmaster at Burlington, Iowa. Harper's Bazar tells of a Mexican Governor who at a dinner had seventeen courses of hash served before the main part of the meal. George Stewart, Jr., the author of "Canada Under the Administration of the Earl of Dufferin," has been elected to the International Literary Society of Paris.

London Spectator.—"Mr. Parnell, in the House, is a formidable person, because of his fixed determination and his occasional knowledge of insight into the momentary situation, but we question his ever developing into a great Irish leader."

London World hints that the opera house on the Thames embankment is to be taken up by a new company (limited), who buy the existing property from Colonel Mansel and Mr. Webster, and, adding a new capital, will now build it out at last.

The following extract from Mr. Delaune's will will be read with interest:—"I bequeath to my friends and colleagues, John Walter, G. W. Daunt, J. C. MacDonald, William Stebbing, L. H. Courtney, T. Mozley, H. Wace, H. Woodham and T. Chenev, the sum of £10 each, and I humbly beg that they respectively be pleased to accept the same from me as a token of my regard and affection for them."

Mr. Proctor writes:—"I have received several inquiries, some of them rather anxious inquiries, respecting the danger to be feared from meteoric downfall, the death of David McKeenister having apparently suggested that such danger may be greater than has heretofore been supposed. If we know the average number of meteoric masses which break their way through the earth's armor—that is, through the 'armorment,' expanse of ether, pure transparent elemental air—it would be very easy to calculate the exact chances of death by meteoric downfall. As a matter of fact, we have no satisfactory evidence on this point, because most of the meteorites which fall upon the earth escape attention. I suppose, however, that if Professor Newton, of Yale College, rightly assumes the number of falling stars of all orders to be 400,000,000 yearly, we may fairly assume that about 4,000 meteorites fall annually upon the earth's surface. This allows one meteorite for 100,000 falling stars. Now, let us take the total number of human beings at any one time on the earth as 1,500,000,000. Assume the risk of persons within doors equal to that of persons in the open air—for a meteorite falling on a house would not be seriously interrupted in its course, since it would not be so likely to be deflected as one second. Again, remembering that the meteors do not fall vertically, nor, even if they did, do men always stand upright, we must take a larger surmise for each person than that which he presents as seen from above when standing. We may take half a square yard for an adult and perhaps a quarter of a square yard for the average human being. Now, the earth's surface contains about 300,000,000 square miles, each containing about 3,000,000 square yards, or 12,000,000 quarter square yards—in all 3,600,000,000,000 quarter square yards—whereas the human race occupies only 1,500,000,000 quarter square yards. Thus the chance of a single meteorite striking some one is as 15 in 24,000,000, or as 1 in 1,600,000; and if 4,000 meteorites fall per annum the chance of one death occurring in any given year is about 1:400th. On the average one death by a meteor stroke might be expected to occur in 400 years. If it be true, as I have seen recently stated, that such deaths have occurred in the last 900 years it would appear probable that 16,000 meteorites, instead of 4,000, annually reach the earth."

FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.

Among the passengers on the steamship Colon, which left this port for San Francisco yesterday, were Trench W. Park, President of the Panama Railroad Company, and S. C. Thompson, George W. Hays and J. W. Burt, directors. These gentlemen, it is understood, were to meet at a meeting at Aspinwall, for the purpose of consulting in regard to Central American projects.

SECRETARY SHERMAN.

Secretary Sherman put in an appearance for a short time on Wall street yesterday. He visited the Sub-Treasury at half-past one o'clock, and remained in consultation with Assistant Treasurer Hillhouse for about half an hour. The latter stated that the visit was simply a friendly one, and of no public importance. It was thought the Secretary would have a consultation with prominent bankers in relation to the feasibility of placing a three and a half per cent bond on the market, and also a meeting place at the Sub-Treasury or at any other place, as far as could be learned.

OBITUARY.

JOHN C. BEARDSLEY. Some days ago, at his farm in Burlington, N. J., Mr. John C. Beardsley, one of the oldest and best known citizens of Newark, died. He was a native of Connecticut, a graduate of Princeton College and was at one time largely engaged in the saddle business. Many years ago he served as an Alderman of Newark, and subsequently as a Water Commissioner. He also served as a member of the Assembly and as a director of the Newark Savings Institution.

JAMES FRENCHGAST. Mr. James Frenchgast, a member of the last Legislature, from Jamestown, N. Y., died unexpectedly on Sunday night, aged thirty-one years. He was educated at Yale, and graduated at Columbia College Law School. He was a member of the Union Club New York, and a leading citizen of Jamestown. The town is draped in mourning. The event causes universal sorrow.

JUDGE GEORGE P. SCARBURGH.

Judge George P. Scarburgh, one of the most prominent men in the city of Norfolk, died at his residence in the city of Norfolk early yesterday morning. His death was entirely unexpected, and was attributed to his professional duties as late as Saturday night.

Judge Scarburgh was descended from Colonel Scarburgh, of Colonial days, who was the most important and influential personage of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, being the colonel of militia, and until his death the representative in that section of the power and majesty of the mother country. He was directed by the Colonial Governor of Virginia to reclaim from Maryland the territory then in possession of the latter State, but claimed as a part of the territory of the former, and now embraced within the limits of Somerset county. He took with him forty horsemen for the purpose of securing the territory, and he returned to the Governor. This record was spread out in full upon the records of the court of that county, and was a leading citation of Judge Scarburgh in his professional duties as late as Saturday night.

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